

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 17-26, as follows:

[0028] Below the tandem mechanism 10, an intermediate transfer belt 13 is extended under a predetermined tension among a plurality of rollers 14, 15, and 16, and is arranged to contact the four photosensitive drums [[11]] 12. The intermediate transfer belt 13 includes a flexible endless belt and serves as a secondary image carrying member for carrying a toner image. One of the rollers 14, 15, and 16 is driven to rotate the intermediate transfer belt 13 clockwise, as indicated by an arrow. Other rollers which are not directly driven follow the rotation.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 7-15, as follows:

[0030] Above the tandem mechanism 10, an exposure unit 19 for sequentially irradiating each of the photosensitive drums [[11]] 12 with an optically-modulated laser beam is provided. The exposure is performed at an area after a charging process and before a development process. Instead of the single exposure unit 19, four separate exposure units may be provided to be used on a one-to-one basis relative to each of the photosensitive drums [[11]] 12. In the exemplary embodiment, the single exposure unit 19 is utilized to decrease cost.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, lines 9-17, as follows:

[0044] FIG. 3 enlarges the image forming units 11 for the colors of C and Bk, for example, as a portion of the tandem mechanism 10. As shown in FIG. 3, in the image forming unit 11 for the color of C, for example, the photosensitive drum 12 is surrounded by a charging unit

56, a development unit 60, the secondary image transfer unit 17, a cleaning unit ~~[[58C]]~~ 58, and a discharging unit 59. A laser light beam L runs to the photosensitive drum 12 between the charging unit 56 and the development unit 60.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, line 12 to page 20, line 7, as follows:

[0054] The sub-hopper 61 is divided into an upper chamber 62 and a lower chamber 63. As shown in FIGs. 6 and 7, where FIG. 6 is a top view of the upper chamber 62 and FIG. 7 is a top view of the lower chamber 63, the upper chamber 62 has a larger floor area than the lower chamber 63 and is provided with a pair of upper screws 64 and 65 and a partition ~~[[66]]~~ 166 having two cut ends, left and right cut ends in FIG. 6, where the partition ~~[[66]]~~ 166 is positioned between the pair of upper screws 64 and 65 and the two cut ends are shorter than an internal width of the upper chamber 62. In FIG. 6, a position A in the upper chamber 62 indicated by a circular mark with a partly-dotted line is a position to which the toner transported by the powder pump 70 is supplied. The toner supplied at the position A is transported within the upper chamber 62 in a direction P1 by the rotations of the upper screws 64 and 65. An opening B in the upper chamber 62 indicated by a square mark with a solid line is an opening connecting inside spaces of the upper chamber 62 and the lower chamber 63. That is, the toner moved along in the direction P1 by the upper screws 64 and 65 is transferred to a region around the connecting opening B and drops down to an inside floor of the lower chamber 63 by its weight through the opening B.